



13. Gopal Bhand and Mahagyani

Raja Krishna Chandra ruled over a part of Bengal about two hundred years ago. His court jester was Gopal Bhand. Though Gopal Bhand had not studied books, he was a very wise man.

Once, a very learned man, Mahagyani Pandit came to the court. He spoke all the Indian languages fluently and perfectly. He had good knowledge of philosophy and religion.



He answered all the questions very wisely. People were amazed to talk to him but no one could identify his mother tongue.

Whenever they asked him, he smiled arrogantly. He said, “A truly wise man will easily know my mother tongue.”

Raja Krishna Chandra was very upset. So he announced a reward for anyone who could tell the Pandit’s mother tongue.

All the scholars listened to Mahagyani attentively. But no one could identify his mother tongue. “Shame on you”, said the king angrily. All the scholars were silent. Gopal Bhand stood up hesitantly. He said, “Your Highness, give me a chance.” “How could you tell?”, asked the king. “Your Highness! I won’t talk. He will tell you himself”, answered Gopal Bhand.

The next morning the king was walking in his garden. Gopal Bhand ran up



to him quickly and said, “I have told Mahagyani Pandit that you are going to honour him with a garland of roses.” “What!”, said the king surprisingly.

The next moment the king saw Mahagyani Pandit walking in expectantly. He was in silk clothes.

Gopal Bhand hid himself behind the hedge. As soon as the Pandit came near the hedge, he put his leg out and tripped the Pandit. The Mahagyani pandit fell down on the freshly watered ground. He sat up and shouted at Gopal Bhand in his mother tongue.



Gopal Bhand said, “Your Highness, now you know, what the Pandit’s mother tongue is!”

Mahagyani Pandit got up and said to Gopal Bhand, “You wise man, you have trapped me intelligently,” and he went away.

Word Meanings

jester	a man paid by kings for making people laugh
fluent	speaking a language well
philosophy	the study of nature and reality

identify	to know
scholar	one who knows much about a subject
expectant	hopeful
hedge	a row of plants growing close together
trip	make someone fall
trick	a quick and clever way to do something
attentive	careful
hesitant	uncertain
arrogant	proud

Reading Comprehension

A. Read the statements and say whether they are true or false:

- a. Gopal Bhand knew many languages. ()
- b. Mahagyani was a proud man. ()
- c. The King had many scholars in his court. ()
- d. The Pandit had good knowledge of dance and music. ()
- e. Raja Krishna Chandra ruled over Bengal. ()

B. Answer the questions:

- a. Who was Gopal Bhand ?
- b. Why did the Raja announce a reward ?
- c. Why did Gopal Bhand hide himself behind the hedge ?
- d. Why was the king angry ?
- e. Why did the Pandit curse Gopal Bhand ?
- f. Which language did the Pandit curse Gopal Bhand in?

C. Riddles

1. He was a ruler.
He ruled over a part of Bengal.
Who was he?

2. He was a court jester.
He had not studied books but he was a wise man.
Who was he?
3. He spoke all the Indian languages fluently.
He had good knowledge of philosophy and religion.
Who was he?

Vocabulary

A. Fill in the blanks with correct word. Choose the words from the list given below:

alert, fluently, scholar, jester, identified, tripped



- a. Gopal Bhand was a in the court of the king Raja Krishna Chandra.
- b. Everyone speaks one's mother tongue.....
- c. Dr. S. Radhakrishna was a great.....
- d. Travellers should be about their luggage while travelling.
- e. The police.....the thief by his clothes.

B. Find the words:

- a. My first letter is in **tap** and **set**
My second letter is in **read** and not in **lead**
My third letter is in **sit** and in **him**
My fourth letter is both in **pot** and **pan**
Who am I.....
- b. My first letter is in **hat** and **hen**
My second letter is 'I'
My third letter is in **dog** and **din**
I am Mr.....

C. Give rhyming words for:

hid	scream	trap	edge
did
kid
lid



Grammar

A. Fill in the blanks using 'ly' forms of the words in bold:

Example: Lalita was **cheerful**. She talked **cheerfully**.

- The lamp was **bright** . It was shining..... .
- The snail is **slow**. It moves
- The boy was **foolish**. He answered..... .
- The sum was **easy**. They solved it..... .
- The girl is **smart**. She talks..... .

B. Mrs. Rai is a teacher of English. She has made some notes about her students. They are given below.

Seema	-	write	-	perfect
Sita	-	speak	-	fluent
Ashu	-	read	-	nice
Savy	-	spell	-	correct
Rita	-	write	-	careful
Salma	-	listen	-	attentive

Use these to say how well each student is doing:

Example: Seema writes perfectly.

Writing

A. Read the passage carefully:

Lions are members of the cat family. They live in Africa and India. The lion is a big cat. It is about 3 meters long and weighs more than 200 kilograms. It is yellow in colour.

The lion can swim in water and climb up trees. It eats only meat. It hunts animals like the zebra. It kills animals by using its claws and teeth. The lion lives for about fifteen years.

Using the clues given below write the description of a TIGER.

Clues:

..... cat family India big cat 3 meters
 200 kilograms yellow Both male and female have
 black stripes. and jump very well. powerful claws
lives 15 years.

B. Write five sentences about one of your classmates. Use the information given in the table. The first one is done for you:

Example: Raju always gets up early.

gets up early	always
reads books	often
tells lies	never
paints picture	sometimes
Watches T.V.	always
plays football	usually
makes mischief	never

Activity

A. Listen and write. (Take dictation.)

B. My Grandmother's purse

Have you ever played a trick on anyone? Which of these things can you put in your friend's pocket to play a trick on her?

Speak out complete sentences.

Example : I put a dead cockroach in my friend's pocket.

a dead cockroach

a bunch of pen without refills

a pouch of pebbles instead of betel-nuts

a rotten tomato

a match box full of ants

a lizard that leaps on a spring

a gum stick into her lipstick cap

Project

Collect a funny story from a news paper or magazine and write/paste it on the chart paper for your class.

